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RTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

No. 29

RALEIGH, N. C.

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

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2. DO PRESENT FARM STOCKS OF GRAIN AND HAY EXCEED LAST YEAR?
3. IS THE SUPPLY OF SEED POTATOES AMPLE FOR 1949?
4. HOW MANY LAYERS WERE ON N. C. FARMS IN DECEMBER?
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10. COMPARE THE INCOME FROM CROPS AND LIVESTOCK

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM STOCKS (continued)

JANUARY 1, 1949 GENERAL FARM REPORT

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Weather conditions at the beginning of the 1949 crop year have been generally favorable to date. Late fall rains hampered and delayed final harvest of corn, soybeans, peanuts and lespedeza seed from the 1948 crops, but have made prospects favorable for the coming season. The abundant supply of soil moisture and mild temperatures have resulted in good growth of small grain crops, winter cover crops and pastures. Recent open weather has permitted tobacco growers to get plant beds in good shape and in some areas seeding is in progress.

RECORD SUPPLY OF SEED POTATOES

The Nation's supply of certified seed potatoes for spring planting this year is the largest on record. Reports from certifying officials in 30 states show that 48.6 million bushels of certified seed potatoes, representing about 11 percent of all potatoes, were produced in 1948. This exceeds the previous record of 44.3 million bushels in 1947 by 10 percent and is more than twice the 1937-46 average.

The Katahdin variety, which displaced Cobbler in 1947 for the first time, again led all varieties in 1948 with a production of 13,385,278 bushels. This is 27.6 percent of the total United States crop of certified seed, and is an increase of almost 2.1 million bushels over 1947, with most of the increase in Maine, where this variety has displaced much of the Cobbler variety. Production of Cobbler, totaling 7,513,998 bushels (10,270,257 bushels in 1947), is 15.5 percent of all seed and is followed by Triumph, with 6,464,320 bushels and 13.3 percent.

Canadian production of certified seed potatoes in the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island is reported at 11,602,076 bushels - an increase of 5 percent (all in Katahdin) over the 1947 crop of 11 million bushels.

DECEMBER MILK PRODUCTION HIGH

Milk production on farms in North Carolina during December was estimated at 112 million pounds, which equals the previous record for the month of December made in 1944. Production during the month compares with 116 million pounds produced in November, 109 million produced in December of 1947 and a 1937-46 December acreage of 104 million pounds.

There were 355 thousand cows on farms in December, the same as in November, but 3 thousand less than in December a year ago. Production per cow during December averaged 316 pounds compared with 328 pounds during the previous month and 305 pounds during the corresponding month in 1947.

FARM STOCKS OF GRAIN AND HAY

As of January 1 on-farm stocks of corn, wheat and oats in North Carolina totaled 52,430,000 bushels. This was 10 percent less than for the same date in 1948. On-farm stocks of barley and rye totaled 370,000 bushels as of December 1, 1948, compared with 625,000 a year earlier.

North Carolina farmers held 47,988,000 bushels of corn on farms as of January 1, which was exceeded only by the record 52,162,000 bushels on farms January 1, 1948, and compares with the 10-year average of 36,094,000 bushels.

At an estimated 1,814,000 bushels, on-farm stocks of wheat were at the third lowest level since 1941. Supplies of wheat on farms January 1, 1948, totaled 2,540,000 bushels. Farm stocks of oats amounted to 2,628,000 bushels, 32 percent less than on January 1, 1948, but only slightly under the 10-year average.

Supplies of barley on farms amounted to 288,000 bushels as of December 1, 1948, or 42 percent less than on December 1, 1947. Rye stocks on December 1 were estimated at 82,000 bushels compared with 131,000 bushels a year earlier and the average of 101,000 bushels.

Total soybeans on farms January 1 amounted to 2,317,000 bushels compared with 1,573,000 bushels a year earlier and the average of 1,427,000 bushels. The larger stocks for this year were caused in part by the record crop produced in 1948 and farmers retention of their production in hopes of improved markets and prices.

At an estimated 809,000 tons, supplies of hays on farms were the lowest since 1946 for this time of year. This compares with 812,000 tons on January 1, 1948, and the average of 790,000 tons.

Supplies of phosphate and potash for this fiscal year are expected to be above 1947-48.

CORN - HOG RATIO FAVORABLE



COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES

Reports from growers of commercial early Irish potatoes in North Carolina point to prospective plantings of 26,000 acres to this crop in 1949. If these intentions are realized this would mean an acreage 16 percent smaller than the 31,000 acres harvested in 1948.

A greater than usual uncertainty on the part of individual growers as to what they planned to do existed at the time of this survey. For that reason it should be borne in mind that this estimate was based on growers intentions as of January 1, 1949.

For other states that normally sell their potatoes about the same time as North Carolina, the 1949 intended acreage is about 9 percent less than the acreage harvested last year.

COMMERCIAL EARLY IRISH POTATOES

INTENDED PLANTINGS FOR 1949

GROUP AND STATE	ACREAGE			INTENDED ACRES AS A PERCENT OF 1948	YIELD	
	1938-47 AVERAGE	1948	1949 INTENDED		1938-47 AVERAGE	1948
	- ACRES -				- BUSHELS -	
LATE SPRING:						
NORTH CAROLINA	34,150	31,000	26,000	84	148	210
CALIFORNIA	50,600	80,000	75,000	94	334	405
LOUISIANA	24,200	12,000	8,000	67	68	70
MISSISSIPPI	3,790	1,100	900	82	85	85
ALABAMA	24,520	18,000	14,400	80	117	140
GEORGIA	2,850	1,100	1,100	100	112	90
SOUTH CAROLINA	13,700	8,000	9,500	119	142	100
TEXAS	8,590	7,700	7,200	94	65	75
OKLAHOMA	3,670	900	1,500	167	91	105
ARKANSAS	5,280	3,900	3,500	90	90	100
TENNESSEE	4,640	4,400	4,200	95	115	105
GROUP TOTAL	175,990	168,100	151,300	90	177	266

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER

Commercial meat production in the United States during November 1948 totaled 1,843 million pounds. This was an increase of 12 percent from the 1,651 million pounds produced during October 1948, but a decrease of 6 percent from the 1,956 million pounds produced during November 1947. Production of all meat for the eleven-month period, January-November 1948, was 8 percent less than for the period last year. Beef production for the eleven-month period was down 13 percent; veal, 11 percent; pork, 3 percent; and lamb and mutton, 6 percent. The estimated meat production includes beef, veal, pork, and lamb and mutton slaughter in Federally-inspected plants and in other wholesale and retail plants, but excludes farm slaughter.

Livestock slaughter for North Carolina during specified periods in 1947 and 1948 is shown in the table below.

NORTH CAROLINA LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER*

TYPE	NOVEMBER				JANUARY-NOVEMBER TOTAL			
	NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT		NUMBER SLAUGHTERED		TOTAL LIVEWEIGHT	
	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948	1947	1948
	HEAD (THOUSANDS)		THOUSAND POUNDS		HEAD (THOUSANDS)		THOUSAND POUNDS	
CATTLE	12.0	10.7	8,325	8,437	105.1	113.2	80,138	86,943
CALVES	8.6	8.2	1,523	1,364	107.9	119.9	19,301	18,784
SHEEP & LAMBS	.3	.3	27	30	5.1	3.9	488	338
HOGS	43.0	35.0	8,385	7,541	329.0	322.0	71,584	70,924

* Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other wholesale and retail slaughter; excludes farm slaughter.

1948 COMMERCIAL APPLE CROP

The estimated production of commercial apples in North Carolina in 1948 totaled 976 thousand bushels, 27 percent above the 1947 crop and 24 percent above the 1943-46 average. Although some damage was caused to the crop by a late spring freeze in a few sections of the mountain producing areas, the 1948 growing season was more favorable than usual, ending with a very good harvesting season. An energetic program of spraying and caring for trees also contributed to increased production.

Production from each variety was above that of 1947. Reference to the table below shows that the greatest increases occurred for Golden Delicious, Rome Beauty and Winesap, with somewhat smaller increases for Delicious and Stayman. Output from these five major varieties accounted for 75 percent of the total increase of 1948 apple production over that of 1947.

NORTH CAROLINA APPLE PRODUCTION BY VARIETIES-1948

GROUP AND VARIETY	PRODUCTION			CROP OF 1948 AS PERCENT OF 1947 CROP
	AVERAGE 1943-46	1947	1948	
	THOUSAND BUSHELS			
MICS. SUMMER VARIETIES	12	8	10	125
FALL VARIETIES:				
GRIMES GOLDEN	12	23	29	126
JONATHAN	7	8	10	125
OTHER	44	31	39	126
TOTAL	64	62	78	126
WINTER VARIETIES:				
BEN DAVIS & GANO	20	15	19	127
BLACK TWIG (PARAGON)	38	23	29	126
DELICIOUS	162	115	127	110
GOLDEN DELICIOUS	76	77	117	152
ROME BEAUTY	38	61	98	161
STAYMAN	159	215	263	122
WINESAP	54	39	59	151
YORK IMPERIAL	21	15	20	133
OTHER	144	138	156	113
TOTAL	712	698	888	127
TOTAL ALL VARIETIES	788	768	976	127

COLD WAVE HITS NATION'S VEGETABLE CROPS

The warm weather which prevailed throughout the fall months in Florida was abruptly ended by the recent cold wave. On the mornings of January 1 and 2, freezing temperatures accompanied by frosts hit most of the vegetable producing sections. The damage to snap beans, lima beans, squash, and cucumbers was rather severe and will curtail the production of these crops very sharply during January. The overall damage to peppers and tomatoes was light. The winter potato crop escaped with only minor damage. Strawberries received a minor setback due principally to the loss of some blooms. Hardy crops such as cabbage, celery, escarole, cauliflower, and lettuce escaped with only minor losses.

Abnormally cold weather hit California's winter vegetable producing areas on January 4 and 5. Heavy freezes on these dates effected all vegetable crops in most producing areas of that State. The full extent of the damage is not known at this time.

TOBACCO - Sales of tobacco before the holidays brought prices near or above those of early December, 1947. Prices for burley, second most important cigarette tobacco, through December 21 were slightly below last year. Prices of Virginia fire-cured, dark air-cured, and flue-cured were above 1947.

Despite price declines and recent slackening in retail trade, business activity continues high.

HOG-CORN RATIO HIGH

During 1948, hog producers in North Carolina were favored with a comparatively good relationship between hog and corn prices. The annual average of monthly hog-corn ratios for the year at 12.6 was the third highest of record and compares with an average of 11.6 for 1947. Higher annual average ratios were seen in 1942, when the ratio reached an all-time high of 13.6 and in 1927 when it reached 12.8. (Hog-corn ratio is the number of bushels of corn required to buy 100 pounds of live hogs, based on average prices received by farmers for corn and hogs at local markets.) The twenty-year (1928-47) average ratio for the state is 10.1.

Monthly ratios during 1948 fluctuated rather sharply. At 10.1 in May, the ratio was at the lowest point during the year. From that time, the ratio increased steadily throughout the remainder of the year. In December the ratio reached 16.7, an all-time record high for any individual month. The sharp downward trend in average prices received for corn by farmers during the year was primarily responsible for the sharp rise and high level of the ratios. Average monthly prices received for corn during the year dropped from \$2.10 per bushel in January to \$1.26 in December. Average prices received for hogs rose to an all-time high of \$26.70 per hundred pounds during August. From August through December, hog prices dropped steadily and somewhat sharply; however, the drop was not as violent as the drop in corn prices. Consequently, during the latter months of 1948, the ratio rose considerably. In May, when the ratio was at the lowest level during the year, farmers received an average price of \$1.96 per bushel for corn and \$19.70 per hundred pounds for hogs. During December, when the ratio reached the highest monthly level of record, farmers received \$1.26 for corn and \$21.10 for hogs.

For the United States, the 1948 annual average of monthly hog-corn ratios was 13.1, comparing with an average of 13.7 in 1947 and a twenty-year (1927-46) average of 12.1. The record high annual average for the country was established in 1926, when the ratio reached 16.9. The ratio averaged 13.3 in the North Central States during 1948, compared to a twenty-year average of 13.2 for the area.

The world sugar crop is estimated to be the largest on record and 11 percent larger than in 1947-48.

EGG PRODUCTION IN DECEMBER

Layers on North Carolina farms produced 52 million eggs during December. This number compares with a production of 43 million during the corresponding month in 1947. There were 7,654,000 layers on farms during the month or slightly more than the 7,559,000 during December a year earlier.

The December monthly rate of lay per hen was 6.8 eggs compared with 5.6 eggs for the same month last year. Closer culling, better feeding practices and comparatively milder weather during the fall months have been factors contributing to better egg production per bird.

FERTILIZER SUPPLIES

Supplies of nitrogen for fertilizer are expected to continue tight in 1948-49, according to Production and Marketing Administration estimates. Instead of the 10 percent gain over 1947-48 expected earlier, the increase probably will be only about 7 percent due to production difficulties. Farmers in the East and South may run into difficulty getting enough of these fertilizers unless they plan ahead.

1949 PEANUT ACREAGE ALLOTMENT

The 1949 acreage allotment of peanuts to be picked and threshed in North Carolina was recently announced by the Production and Marketing Administration, U.S.D.A. North Carolina's allotment for the 1949 crop year is 242,463 acres.

The 242,463 acres allotted the State for 1949 would be 15.2 percent less than the acreage harvested last year, 16.9 percent less than 1947 and 9.5 percent less than the 1937-46 average acreage.

Allotments were also announced for the two other states in the Virginia-North Carolina Area. Virginia received an allotment of 141,108 acres for 1949. This compares with 165 thousand acres harvested in 1948 and the 1937-46 average of 149 thousand. Tennessee received an allotment of 5,524 acres and this compares with 5,000 acres harvested in 1948 and 1947 and the 1937-46 average of 8,000 acres.

This is the first year since 1942 that peanuts have been under acreage quotas.

U.S. farmers seeded 61,370,000 acres to winter wheat last fall, 5 percent more than last year's record and a fourth more than the 10-year average.

U. S. LIVESTOCK-MEAT SITUATION

Meat production was seasonally large in early December, as weekly output under Federal inspection set a 1948 high. Production is likely to decline moderately in early 1949 and to be less than that of the same time in 1948. Prices of meats and meat animals may strengthen some in months immediately ahead.

The decline in general average prices of meat animals and meat this past fall has been for the most part a normal seasonal movement resulting because of the seasonal increase in output. There are some indications, however, that the price drop is greater than can be accounted for entirely by the rising supplies, and this may be an indication of some weakening in the demand for meat from the high level reached last summer.

Prices of hogs completed the full usual seasonal decline by mid-November, and were down somewhat more in mid-December. Cattle prices also dropped from mid-November to mid-December, with prices of the top grades of cattle trending seasonally weaker than those of the lowest grades.

On the basis of present prospects, meat production and slaughter will reach 1948 levels sometime in the spring. Total production for the year may be about the same as that in 1948. More pork may just about be offset by less beef and lamb. Total beef output will be down from 1948 because of reductions in cattle numbers over the last few years, but it will include more beef of the better grades. Cattle feeding, source of better beef, now promises to be greater the winter than it was last year.

U. S. storage stocks of manufactured dairy products (milk equivalent) on January 1 were up one billion pounds from 1948.

Egg prices declined more than seasonally from mid-November to mid-December, as U. S. egg production in November set a record for the month, and withdrawals from storage were 20 percent larger than a year earlier.

Wheat condition on December 1 indicated an average yield of 15.7 bushels per acre and a total U. S. production of 965 million bushels, down 3 percent from 1948.

Since summer, prices of most non-farm commodities have leveled off. Prices of farm products, however, have declined fairly steadily since harvesting of record 1948 crops began.

FARM REPORT

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FARM REPORT

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FARM BUILDING ACTIVITY

The building business is booming on farms as well as in urban areas, according to the results of a personal interview survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in April 1948. Six percent of the farmers interviewed in North Carolina reported new houses started or completed on their farms in 1947. With approximately 288,000 farms in North Carolina this would mean that new houses were under construction on about 17,000 farms. However, part of these houses that were finished in 1947 were started in 1946 and part of those begun in 1947 were not completed until 1948. Assuming an average construction period of six months and that building continued with fair uniformity throughout the year, it appears that construction of farm homes was begun on from 10,000 to 12,000 farms in North Carolina in 1947.

Repairs or improvements to existing homes was reported by more families than any other phase of farm building.

Eighteen percent reported that houses were repaired or remodeled during 1947, but only 10 percent reported repairs or remodeling to other farm buildings. Almost two fifths of the farmers interviewed reported that construction work of some kind was done on their farms during 1947.

In the United States, four percent of all farmers reported houses started or completed in 1947 and 15 percent reported repairs or improvements to existing homes.

FARM REAL ESTATE MARKET

Farm land values continued strong during the year ending November 1, 1948. The November, 1948

level of land values is now above the 1920 peak in all but 12 states. Current values in North Carolina and Alabama are estimated to be about 50 percent higher than the 1920 peak and about 40 percent higher in Rhode Island, New Jersey, Kentucky and California.

Although over one-half more farms are changing hands by voluntary sale than before the war, indications are that substantially fewer farms were sold during this summer and early fall than during the same period of 1947. This drop in the rate of turnover appears to result from a general reluctance on the part of present owners to sell and to unwillingness of many prospective buyers to pay current asking prices.

FARMS OWNED BY INDIVIDUALS

Individuals own about 87 percent of all farm land in the U. S. This leaves only 13 percent owned by corporations, partnerships, and public agencies, based on the 1945 census and a follow-up Nation-wide survey. Acreage held by individuals totaled some 994 million acres. The commercial family farm remains the chief unit in our agricultural economy.

CASH FARM RECEIPTS

Total cash farm receipts from the sale of crops and livestock in North Carolina amounted to 626 million dollars from January through October 1948. Cash receipts from the sale of crops accounted for 505 million dollars or four-fifths of all receipts. During the same period in 1947 cash receipts totaled 581 million. Cash income from the sale of crops during the January-October period in 1947 also accounted for

four-fifths of total receipts.

Although total receipts at the end of October of this year exceed those during the same period last year, total receipts during 1948 may be less than 1947. Receipts during October of 1948 were lower than October of 1947 by 36 million dollars. Lower marketings of tobacco combined with lower prices for other major crops may result in decreased income in 1948 as compared with 1947. Even though total cash receipts in 1948 equal or slightly exceed those in 1947, net income will be lower than 1947 owing to increased farmers' production expenses during 1948.

PRICES OF LEGUME SEEDS INCREASE

United States average prices received by growers for alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover, and lespedeza seed, on December 15 were higher than the 1942-46 average for that date. Compared with last year, however, prices of the relatively large 1948 red clover and the very large lespedeza-seed crops were lower. Price of Sudan-grass seed also was above average, but below last year's level. Farm movement this season for each of these five seeds, except red clover, has been faster than usual.

Since summer, prices of most non-farm commodities have leveled off. Demand for some of the "soft goods" particularly textiles and leather products, has weakened.

Prices of farm products, on the other hand, have declined fairly steadily since harvesting of record 1948 crops began. Wholesale prices of food and farm products now average 9 percent below mid-August.